

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of encapsulating a sensitive material comprising:
plating the sensitive material onto a solid carrier, in an atmosphere inert to the
sensitive material, to form a plated material; and
encapsulating the plated material.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is
2 nitrogen, carbon dioxide, or helium.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein the solid carrier is chilled prior to plating with
2 the sensitive material.
- 1 4. The method of claim 3 wherein the solid carrier is chilled by liquid nitrogen.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1 wherein the solid carrier is porous or semi porous.
- 1 6. The method of claim 5 wherein the solid carrier is maltodextrin, silicon dioxide,
2 starches and starch derivatives, gums, or hydrocolloids.
- 1 7. The method of claim 6 wherein the encapsulation occurs in an atmosphere inert
2 to the sensitive material.
- 1 8. The method of claim 7 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is
2 oxygen-free.
- 1 9. The method of claim 7 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is
2 nitrogen, carbon dioxide, or helium.
- 1 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material has a boiling point of
2 between about 40°F and 250°F.

- 1 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the atmosphere inert to the sensitive material is
2 oxygen-free.
- 1 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is sprayed onto the solid
2 carrier.
- 1 13. The method of claim 1 further comprising encapsulating the plated material with
2 a melted encapsulant.
- 1 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the percentage of encapsulant in the resulting
2 encapsulated particles is between about 10 to about 90%.
- 1 15. The method of claim 14 wherein the percentage of encapsulant in the resulting
2 encapsulated particles is between about 20 to about 80%.
- 1 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is a volatile material.
- 1 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is an oxygen sensitive
2 material.
- 1 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is a biologically active
2 substance.
- 1 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the biologically active substance is selected
2 from the group consisting of Lactobacilli, Bifidobacterium, Enterococci, phytase,
3 amylases, lipases, invertases, transglutaminases, proteases, lipooxygenases and
4 pentosanases.
- 1 20. The method of claim 1 wherein the sensitive material is at least one selected from
2 the group consisting of alcohols, acetones, ketones, aldehydes, organic acids, and
3 antioxidants.